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Kentucky Expecting Big Crop Harvests

Louisville, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the October Crop Production report today, showing an increased harvest for corn, and hay, compared with a year ago. Soybean production is expected to be lower than last year, but still the fourth largest crop in state history.

“Growers expect that corn and soybean yields will be record highs,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “The growing season has seen favorable moisture and temperatures, and harvest conditions have been good, to date.”

Corn production in Kentucky is forecast at 268 million bushels, unchanged from the September forecast and up 7% from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 185 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and up 1 bushel from the 2020 level. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.45 million acres, up 90,000 acres from 2020. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 15.0 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast and up 6% from 2020. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 176.5 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushels from last month and up 5.1 bushels from 2020. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 85.1 million acres, unchanged from the September forecast and up 3% from 2020.

Soybean production for Kentucky is forecast at 98.5 million bushels, unchanged from the September forecast and down 3% from 2020. Yield was estimated at 55 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and a year ago. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.79 million acres, down 50,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.45 billion bushels, up 2% from the September forecast and up 5% from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushels from last month and up 0.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 86.4 million acres, unchanged from the September forecast and up 5% from 2020.

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast at 68.4 million pounds, down 8% from the September forecast and down 5% from 2020. Yield was projected at 1,900 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds from last month and down 50 pounds from the 2020 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 81.3 million pounds, down 4% from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 42,450 acres, down 2% from 2020. Yields were expected to average 1,915 pounds per acre, down 41 pounds from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 30.5 million pounds, up 6% from the September forecast and up 47% from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 14.0 million pounds, down 16% from the September forecast and down 2% from last year.

Alfalfa hay production by Kentucky farmers is forecast at 513,000 tons, up 1% the 2020 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 5.04 million tons, up 2% from last year.

CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, October 1
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES

Crops	Area Planted ¹		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2020	2021	2020	2021 ²	2020	2021		2020	2021
						Sep 1 ¹	Oct 1 ²		
	KENTUCKY								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	1,470	1,550	1,360	1,450	184.0	185.0	185.0	250,240	268,250
Soybeans ³	1,850	1,800	1,840	1,790	55.0	55.0	55.0	101,200	98,450
Wheat, Winter ^{3,4}	510	510	340	350	63.0	87.0	--	21,420	30,450
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	2,195	2,235	2.47	--	--	5,428	--
Alfalfa	--	--	145	135	3.50	--	3.80	508	513
Other, All	--	--	2,050	2,100	2.40	--	2.40	4,920	5,040
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	51,400	50,800	2,086	2,280	2,222	107,235	112,880
Burley	--	--	37,000	36,000	1,950	2,000	1,900	72,150	68,400
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	8,300	8,700	2,500	3,300	3,500	20,750	30,450
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,100	6,100	2,350	2,500	2,300	14,335	14,030
	UNITED STATES								
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(1,000 bushels)	(1,000 bushels)
Corn ³	90,652	93,304	82,313	85,085	171.4	176.3	176.5	14,111,449	15,018,542
Soybeans ³	83,354	87,235	82,603	86,436	51.0	50.6	51.5	4,216,302	4,448,043
Wheat, Winter ^{3,4}	30,450	33,648	23,029	25,464	50.9	50.2	--	1,171,397	1,277,365
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	(1,000 tons)	(1,000 tons)
Hay:									
All	--	--	52,238	51,537	2.43	--	2.34	126,812	120,482
Alfalfa	--	--	16,230	16,123	3.27	--	2.99	53,067	48,156
Other, All	--	--	36,008	35,414	2.05	--	2.04	73,745	72,326
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	198,060	221,200	1,966	2,102	2,097	389,413	463,835
Burley	--	--	43,310	42,450	1,956	2,006	1,915	84,697	81,275
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	14,350	15,050	2,631	3,157	3,272	37,755	49,250
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	9,800	10,400	2,331	2,344	2,217	22,845	23,060

¹ Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--"). ² Forecasted. ³ Area harvested represents grain. ⁴ Includes area planted in preceding fall.